

Income of New Mexico State Land Office Doubles That of a Year Ago for Period of October Settlements-- Ervien Check to State Treasurer for \$416,864.83

RECEIPTS FOR SAME
PERIOD LAST YEAR
REACHED TOTAL OF
ONLY \$234,445.97

GRAND TOTAL OF CASH INCOME
FOR YEAR 1915, \$47,547.57, WITH IN-
COME DUE FROM 1,200 LEASES
AND SALE CONTRACTS STILL
TO BE PAID IN BEFORE
NOVEMBER 30.

INCOME IN 1907, ERVIEN'S
FIRST YEAR, WAS \$7,552.15

OPERATING COST OF GREAT PUBLIC
BUSINESS HELD DOWN TO
APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PER
CENT THIS YEAR, WITH
PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT
COST INCLUDED.

Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 1.—Robert F. Ervien, New Mexico commissioner of public lands, last week drew a check on the First National bank of this city, in favor of the Treasurer of New Mexico, for the sum of \$416,864.83, the largest single check ever turned into the state treasury as income from the state's public lands, for distribution to the funds of the various state beneficiaries of the federal land grant.

The big check represents the income of the state land office for the period of the October settlements and shows an increase over the income for the same period of last year of \$184,140.16, when the land commissioner's check to the state treasurer was \$234,445.97. The figures mean that there has been an increase in the state's income from public lands during the present year, over the income of last year of close to 100 per cent.

Prior to the annual October settlements the Land Commissioner had paid into the state treasury \$166,961.44, making a grand total for the year to this date of \$655,547.57. There remains to be added to this big total the income due and payable, on or before November 30, 1916, the end of the state's fiscal year, from 1,200 leases and contracts of sale, on which the annual settlements have not yet been made.

For the first time the people of New Mexico have an opportunity to realize just how big the state's public land income and operations have become during the administration of the state lands by Mr. Ervien. It is by far the biggest business enterprise in the state, and it is administered on a smaller proportionate cost for operation than is any other big business enterprise in the state, either public or private.

It has cost the state, up to this time this year considerably less than 8 per cent to operate the big land department, and when the total annual cost has been footed up it will be approximately an even 8 per cent. This operating cost includes the new publicity department, added to the state land department by the legislature of 1915, by an act permitting the land commissioner to expend 3 per cent of the income of the state land department for promotion of the improvement and advancing values of the land, and for advertising and encouraging the industries and development of the resources of the state.

Some idea of the growth achieved in the state's land business can be had from the fact that in the first year of Mr. Ervien's administration, 1907, the total of the annual October settlement was but \$7,552.15. Almost from the time Mr. Ervien took charge of the department under an appointment by the then territorial governor, there has been a rapid annual increase in the income. The additional grant of six million acres of federal lands under the enabling act, more than doubled the state's holdings, but with but little increase in the proportionate value of the state's total land holdings, the income from the lands has increased at a rate far in advance of the increase in the grant itself. The greatest increase has come during the last two years, during which time the land commissioner has been able to put into effect in a state-wide way his policies for development of state owned lands, which have been forming practically since the day he took charge of the department.

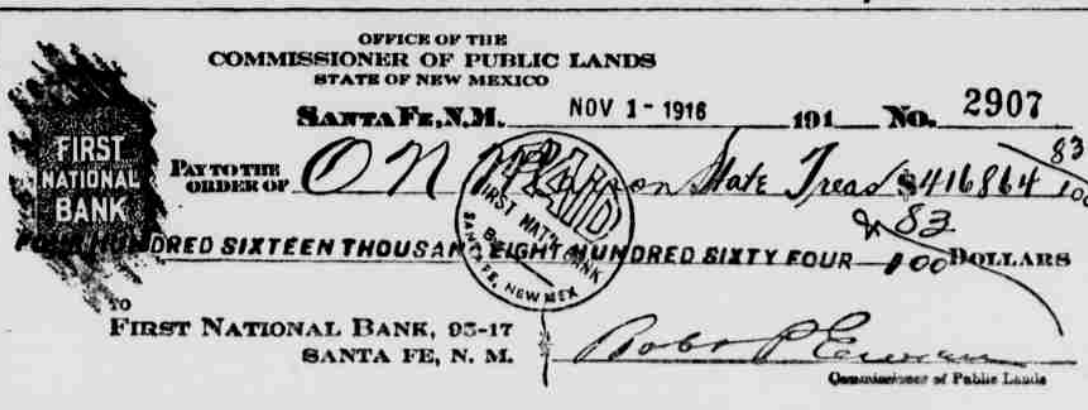
Annual Income Almost Doubles.

The total income from state lands, for the fiscal year ended November 30, 1915, was \$47,547.57.

When all settlements for the present fiscal year have been made, and the balance has been struck for this fiscal year on November 30, the total income for the fiscal year 1916 will be very close to \$200,000, and may possibly exceed that amount. The income enjoyed by New Mexico from its state lands has almost doubled within a single year.

Close observers of the development of the state's land holdings, and of their administration attribute the huge increase in revenue of the past two years to three general causes. These are, first, general development of the state, increased demand for land throughout the west, and the favorable selections from the public domain which have been made during the period of Mr. Ervien's administration, making the lands possible of ready lease and sale.

Second, to the general act of the



HANDLING STATE LAND FUND DEPOSITS NO CINCH FOR BANKS, SAYS BANKER

Santa Fe, N. M., November 1.—"I have seen somewhere an intimation that New Mexico banks which have deposits of state land funds realize large profits therefrom, and in view of our own experience as the chief depository of those funds, it has caused me some amusement," said Levi A. Hughes, president of the First National bank of Santa Fe today, in response to an inquiry for some detailed information concerning the largest income payment from public lands ever turned into the state treasury in a single check. The state land commissioner's check for \$416,864.83, being the total of accumulated funds for the annual October settlement of the department, was drawn on the First National here, and is one of the largest checks ever paid by any New Mexico bank.

"People have an idea I think," said Mr. Hughes, "or at least some people seem to have it, that the state land commissioner comes around and leaves large sums of money with the banks for indefinite periods during which the banks can loan the money at current interest rates and make large profits. The impression, if it really exists, is wholly wrong. This bank, as the custodian of the state land department's checking account, generally carries a heavier volume of the department's business and deposits than any other bank in the state. Of course our bank wants the business and is glad to have it entrusted to us. The commissioner has made our bank the principal depository largely because of convenience, and to reduce expense to the minimum. It is a compliment to the institution which we appreciate, but any idea that our bank makes any large profit upon the handling of these funds is entirely wrong.

"As a matter of fact a bank finds it difficult to realize any profit on the state land office account. The period of the deposit is uncertain. The money is liable to be withdrawn at any time, and because of this its use in current commercial loans is not practical for a conservative banking institution. It is true that at times the state land deposits help swell our balances with our reserve banks in the east, but anyone familiar with banking knows that the interest rate paid on such deposits is very small.

"On the other hand the cost of handling the enormous volume of transactions which make up the daily and monthly business of the state land office, practically uses up all profit accruing from interests paid to us on those deposits. Take this big check here for instance; it represents a total of 3,563 separate and distinct items ranging from \$2 up, all of which require separate handling, separate clearing on other banks, scattered all through the United States and Canada, and a banking detail which is very heavy, particularly during the settlement periods. The only times when our deposits of state land funds are very heavy is during these settlement periods, confined almost wholly to the month of October when the business is very heavy indeed, as shown by this large check to the state treasurer, clearing from our bank the accumulations of the October settlement period for this year, and establishing a new record in such payments to the treasurer.

"Once every so often a check comes back and we have the task of sending it back over the route again or undoing the transaction all the way back to its source. The land office deposits made here during the past thirty days will aggregate half a million dollars. To have handled the banking end of those transactions in his own offices the land commissioner would have required a special force of trained banking men almost as large as our whole bank force here. We handle all that detail, but we cannot make loans from these deposits, for we have notice that they are subject to immediate withdrawal, or at any time.

"The present land commissioner is exacting in his care for detail, and while this is highly commendable on his part, it makes the handling of his banking business a very arduous undertaking. Frequently payments are made in excess of the amount due. Whenever such an excess is under twenty cents the commissioner refunds it in postage stamps. But over twenty cents we are required to issue a cashier's check for the surplus which goes back to the man sending in the overpayment. I mention this as an illustration of the vast detail work which goes with this deposit. We are glad to have the land department business; in many ways it is a benefit to this bank as it would be to any bank, but anyone who thinks it highly profitable to the bank handling it simply does not know what the expense of handling that business is.

"There is one feature of the drawing of this \$400,000 check on our bank which is of real interest not only to bankers but to all the people of New Mexico. It shows an enormous increase in the revenue the state is deriving from its lands. Those of us who are familiar with the transactions of the land office have been amazed at the growth of the income for the state. If the operation of the state land department and the administration of our lands is continued upon its present efficient basis it is only a matter of a little time until our schools and practically all of our public institutions will be maintained very largely from the income from state lands alone, thus lifting a heavy load from the taxpayers. In the eleven months of this year the income from state lands has reached nearly \$700,000.00. The time is now very near at hand when this income will be over the million dollar mark each year."

legislation, following statehood, which permitted the land commissioner to put into operation a broad-gauge business policy in the handling of state lands, and allowing their use in the most practical way, while at the same time effectively safeguarding them from depreciation or unwise sales.

Third, to the hard-headed business administration which Mr. Ervien has given to the state's land business, from the most minute detail of official operation up to transactions such as the recent oil lease, which involves large areas and which may result in huge income for the state and its schools, practically without effort or expense.

The administration of the public lands by Mr. Ervien has been remarkable in that it has been almost entirely free from criticism even from political opponents. During the entire period of nearly ten years while Ervien has been state land commissioner only two general criticisms have been directed against his administrative policies. One of these is that a too great number of large leases have been made.

A Policy Which Justifies Itself.

The answer to the first of these criticisms, which has now practically ceased to be heard, as the wisdom of the commissioner's general policy has become recognized, is found in the annual reports of the state land office, which show that the total acreage under what are termed "small leases," 2,000 acres or less, is considerably greater than is the total acreage held under "large leases," as used in the department to designate leases of 20,000 acres or more. The income from leases which has made the state's lands produce a revenue far beyond the greatest amount hoped for by anyone within twenty years after statehood, and which will make available for schools during the next year or two not less than a million dollars a year, is the final justification of the general policy of the land commissioner, which is to make the most advantageous disposition of the lands for purposes of securing cash revenue, without injuring the value of the lands.

The Deposit Fund Criticism.

The other criticism which has been directed against the land department during Mr. Ervien's administration, has arisen very recently, and is due to a condition over which he has had no control. In order to insure good faith on the part of persons applying for selections of state lands for purchase, the necessity for a deposit to insure performance of the contract, when the selection had been approved by the federal government, was obvious. The approval of state land selections in the department of the interior at Washington during the present administration has been painfully slow; so slow at times as to give an impression of deliberate delay and possible obstruction. Because of these delays in approval of selections, the deposits by intending purchasers have run up to nearly \$750,000. These funds are not state funds. They are the property of the prospective purchasers and are held by the Land Commissioner in the same way that a certified check is held by an architect from a contractor bidding on a piece of construction. They are trust funds which the land commissioner has no other power than merely to keep in safety. This has been done by depositing these funds in banks all over the state which have been willing to make the necessary surety bonds to properly protect the deposits. Not all banks have been willing to take in these funds since the period of their holding is uncertain, depending entirely on the time when the interior department may see fit to approve the state's selections of land applied for.

The attorney general of the state has ruled that the Land Commissioner has no option but to keep these funds just as he is now keeping them, and the United States attorney for New Mexico, in a recent written opinion to the attorney general at Washington held with the attorney general of the state. Thus there has been no option on the part of the land commissioner but to continue the funds, properly secured, as they have always been held.

This criticism will very soon be removed through the operation of the land department system, which disposes of the lands as quickly as selections are approved. The amount now held in trust will diminish rapidly from this time on, and cannot reach any important total again.

In the meantime the wisdom of the deposit requirement has been proven over and over again. Quite recently the land commissioner paid into the state treasury the sum of \$12,000, realized from the forfeit of a single deposit, in a contract wherein the intending purchaser failed to complete the purchase when the selection applied for had been approved and had been tendered to him for final purchase. A considerable number of smaller forfeitures have been turned into the state treasury, making in the aggregate an imposing total.

A Working Business Man's Job.

The job of administering New Mexico's public lands is no undertaking for a man who cares for an easy life. It is a working business man's job and requires close and constant attention year in and year out. The detail handled through the department is enormous. Its banking transactions alone are far larger month by month than the total transactions of most small banks. Its field is the whole state, and the number of its clients is increasing by leaps and bounds, as is indicated by the enormous increases in the revenues.

Land Commissioner Ervien has had a thorough schooling in the work of the department. He has given it his entire and undivided attention since he took the position. He brought to it the judgment and ability of a man of unusual grasp of large affairs, combined with the unusual quality of grasp of detail. He has added to this equipment a knowledge of the state lands and of the state as a whole that is profound, and an understanding of the needs of the department and of the state that is comprehensive. He was one of the best equipped men in the state for the job when he took it nearly ten years ago, and in the intervening years he has acquired a knowledge and an experience which any man, no matter what his ability, would require an equal time to acquire.

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF NEW MEXICO

YOUR candidate for governor, Holm O. Bursum, is running like the leader of a landslide. From all parts of the state reports are the same. Sentiment has turned definitely and finally to Bursum, and he and the Republican state ticket are to be elected by a record-breaking majority. Let every Republican in New Mexico, from this moment until the polls close on election day, bend his every energy to making that majority overwhelming.

The election of Charles E. Hughes is certain. The nation is for him. Sentiment has turned to him throughout the country, just as sentiment has turned to Bursum in New Mexico. The people are tired of inefficiency, of vacillation, of evasion and weakness. They want a change to strong, vigorous American leaders, whose policies are definite and whose administrative ability is adequate.

New Mexico must not be behind the rest of the states in support for Mr. Hughes. The Democrats in New Mexico have abandoned all hope of electing De Baca or McDonald and have ceased to defend the McDonald administration. They have centered all their efforts on support for Wilson and for their candidate for the Senate, A. A. Jones. This desertion of their state ticket creates a situation which all Republicans must watch and guard against. This is our opportunity to make New Mexico definitely and for all time a Republican state. See that every vote in your precinct and at your polling place votes the Republican ticket straight—that Charles E. Hughes and our candidates for the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, get every Republican vote.

The congressmen from New Mexico may determine the political complexion of the next Congress. Remember that on election day and see that every Republican vote goes for Hughes and for men who will support his policies.

Pass the word along to your friends. This is to be made an overwhelming Republican victory. A half victory will not do. A small majority will not do. It must be convincing and final. It must be big enough to place New Mexico in the Republican column for years to come.

To this end work every minute from now until election day, and on election day go to the polls before they open. Line up among the early voters. Cast your vote early and thereafter work at the polls in behalf of your national, your congressional, your state and your county ticket. Make it a clean sweep right down the line. Elect them all.

Remember that the Democrats are desperate. They are ready to go to any length. Their last minute attacks will be vicious. Their last minute efforts to distract you and deceive you will be equally vicious. Just keep in mind that McDonald and his administration have been tried by the people of New Mexico—and found wanting; and remember the assurance of McDonald when he said "If E. C. De Baca is elected governor of New Mexico he will make the same kind of a governor I have been."

Remember all these things and do your duty to your party and your state and your own best interests on November 7th.

TOM COONEY ANSWERS UNCLE HARRY

WELL KNOWN MOGOLLON
MINING MAN ADDS TO
HERRMAN STATEMENT.
SAYS BURSUM IS A PRINCE
AMONG MEN

Everybody in southern New Mexico knows "Tom" Cooney. He is a pioneer of the Mogollons, the Cooney mining district being named after his uncle. He has been prominent in the development of the Mogollons and was largely instrumental in securing the interest of parties in the Organ mining district of Dona Ana county, out of which grew the sale of the properties to the Phelps Dodge Co. Tom served Socorro county in the state legislature and exemplifies in his daily life the highest ideals of good citizenship. Here is Tom Cooney's letter to the editor of this paper this week, Mr. Cooney graciously giving his consent for its publication:

Las Cruces, N. M., Oct. 23rd.
Editor Silver City Enterprise,
Silver City, N. M.

Dear Sir: In your last issue, the 20th, I note that Uncle Harry Herrmann, our Grand Old Man of the Mogollons, refutes Gov. McDonald's charges as to the Hon. Holm O. Bursum's record—the expenditures on the old Bursum road from Magdalena to Mogollon. I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of Uncle Harry's honesty and fairness at this time when so many Democrats (and a few Republicans, I regret to say) are prone to keep silent owing to the party lash in an expression of their honest convictions. While serving in the first state legislature and endeavoring to represent my country in such legislation as I deemed proper and just, I had occasion to meet the governor quite often. And while he vetoed every bill I had the honor of presenting for my constituents of Socorro county, yet he informed me two years ago that his actions then were entirely through a misapprehension of the then needs of the county. I venture to say that he is again laboring under a misapprehension in regards to H. O. Bursum. Mr. Bursum is a likeable fellow and I surely could not believe he would stoop to such deeds simply to fill a position and that position a subordinate one.

I have known H. O. Bursum for twenty-five years and I venture to say I never had the pleasure of meeting a nobler specimen of manhood in my whole life. A man with a big frame, a big brain, and a heart of gold. Aside from what I know personally of this splendid

man I have learned the true inwardness of him through my own and his true two friends, C. H. Kirkpatrick and the Hon. Harry M. Dougherty, both deceased. Harry Dougherty was a life long Democrat, but a very broad-minded man, and on my way to Santa Fe I stopped over to see him as he was. Cooney and Weatherly's attorney for years. At that time he told me all about Bursum's penitentiary affairs as warden of the state penitentiary and then said: "Tom, Bursum is as innocent as an unborn babe of the foul charges which helped to defeat him. I am his attorney, and I ought to know." And Harry Dougherty (may his soul rest in peace) was the soul of honor. I am for H. O. Bursum because I know he is honest and one of the biggest men in New Mexico physically, mentally and morally.

I know all about the R. O. B. Mining Company of which Uncle Harry sneaks and he is absolutely right. Bursum did pay the \$45,000 and MORE up to date and in all those fifteen years, more or less, has never secured one cent in return and never a whimper from him. Bursum is the best and greatest New Mexican today. Should he lose this election he is the same man he was five years ago.

If you deem it worthy enough you may publish this.

Yours most truly,
THOMAS COONEY.

BIG SALE OF STATE LAND TO SETTLERS AT DEMING LAST WEEK

At the state land sale that was held at the court house on Monday morning by Captain Fred Mueller, a total acreage of 40,476.25 was sold for the sum of \$125,908.75. Accompanying Capt. Mueller was J. W. March of the state land office, who assisted him in the holding of the sale.

All of the land, with the exception of one school section, went for \$3. the school section, going to Jesse E. Muddell for \$10 per acre. The following were the purchasers: Victor Land & Cattle Co., 476.50 acres; J. J. Heatt, 33.55 acres; A. E. Snider, 119.57 acres; W. H. Cook, 102.334 acres; W. W. Parker, 120.35 acres; H. L. Kerr, 297.50 acres; Alfons Lanno, 40 acres; A. P. Williams, 397.5 acres; W. H. Tuttle, 39.90 acres; B. J. Tuttle, 40 acres; L. M. Schweitzer, 320 acres; A. G. Harrison, 100 acres; W. C. Hooper, 160 acres; A. G. Rodolf, 42.08 acres; Henry Yano, 33 acres; K. F. Johnson, 100 acres; E. C. Green, 160 acres; Hall Bros., 37.20 acres; J. A. Pruett, 829.52 acres.

Many prominent men were present at the sale, including H. A. Jastro, president of the Victoria Land & Cattle Co., who came from Bakersfield, Calif., W. D. Murray of Silver City, E. A. Suppiger of New York, who owns one of the finest farms in the valley at Hondale and who is stocking it with some of the best breeds of cattle to be had, S. A. Birchfield of Tyrone, and many others from different parts of the state.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

For Presidential Electors, H. J. Hammond, C. L. Hill, Juan Ortiz.—Three staunch Republicans of New Mexico. Votes for them mean votes for Charles E. Hughes, Republican candidate for president of the United States, and for Charles W. Fairbanks, Republican candidate for vice president of the United States.

For United States Senator, Frank A. Hubbell.—One of the foremost business men of New Mexico. Mr. Hubbell grew up in New Mexico and the story of his success is the story of the growth and development of territory and state. Mr. Hubbell has invested the fruits of his success in his state; the money produced by his big enterprises is circulated here. Now Mr. Hubbell's sons may take up his business, and his state may have the benefit of his sound good sense and his loyal interest in New Mexico and its people in the Senate of the United States. Moreover, he is thoroughly Republican and New Mexico needs to send a Republican to the Senate to back up the next president, Mr. Hughes, who is a Republican.

For Representative in Congress, Benigno C. Hernandez.—An efficient and capable member of Congress whose splendid record there the past two years clearly entitles him to another term. And it is as important to elect a Republican member of the House of Representatives as to elect a Republican senator.

For Governor, Holm O. Bursum.—Who came to New Mexico to earn his living when he was thirteen years old; who found time in the years of hard work building a modest fortune for his family to study the problems of the people. He has done much to secure better roads, better schools, better government for New Mexico. He is the author of the Bursum tax law, providing a more just tax code for the people, reducing their taxes, although still providing sufficient revenues for the state. He is the author of the mine tax law, which has compelled the great mining corporations to pay more of the expenses of state government. Mr. Bursum has become a successful business man and a thoroughly equipped student of government through his own ability, study and hard work. His many human attributes and his straightforward honesty are natural traits.

For Lieutenant Governor, W. B. Lindsey.—A stalwart Republican from the eastern part of the state, who will make an efficient lieutenant governor and presiding officer of the state senate.

For Secretary of State, Gilberto Mirabal.—Who has made a fine record as the head of the accounting department of the state land office and whose election will be a recognition of the younger members of the Republican party.

For State Auditor, William G. Sargent.—Of whose record as territorial auditor and then state auditor not alone the Republicans, but all the citizens of the state may be proud. Mr. Sargent should and will be re-elected.

For State Treasurer, Gregory Page.—A Republican, a heavy taxpayer, a business man of proven ability. Mr. Page will fulfill the duties of office and compel the respect of everyone as state treasurer.

For Attorney General, Frank W. Clancy.—The fine lawyer and public man who has been attorney general since statehood, following an honorable service as territorial attorney general. The people of New Mexico will feel proud to retain Mr. Clancy at the head of the state's legal department.

For Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. H. Wagner.—An eminent educator well fitted by training and temperament to direct the state department of education. Mr. Wagner's excellent record as head of the Las Cruces and Santa Fe schools indorses him for the state superintendency.

For Commissioner of Public Lands, Robert F. Ervien.—The state official whose careful administration of state lands has already provided a fine nest-egg for the public schools; whose successful efforts, against the opposition of a Democratic governor, to test the public lands for oil and gas may open up new riches to the commonwealth. Mr. Ervien is a builder; he stands for progress and efficiency in office, and should be re-elected.

For Justice of the Supreme Court, Clarence J. Roberts.—The distinguished, clear-thinking jurist who is now chief justice of the state supreme court and who unquestionably will be re-elected by the people to the bench from which he has so ably interpreted the law since New Mexico was admitted to the Union.

For State Corporation Commissioner, Malquias Martinez.—A successful business man, successful public official and prominent Republican who will give good service to the people as corporation commissioner.